

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

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----- 094872

R 262103Z OEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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USINT BAGHDAD
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY SANAA BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING
DECEMBER 26, 1973:

QUOTE: Q. UPI HAS A STORY THAT SAYS THAT ON SOME HIGH
LEVEL OF INFORMATION THEY HAVE DISCOVERED -- BRUSSELS
DATELINE -- THAT THE PERPETRATORS OF THE ROME-ATHENS-KUWAIT
HIJACKING, OR THE ORGANIZATION TO WHICH THEY BELONG, HAD
PLANNED TO MAKE THEIR BIG RUN ON SECRETARY KISSINGER IN
BEIRUT, AND THAT WHEN FRUSTRATED BY HIS LANDING IN AN
OUTLYING AIRFIELD, THEN WENT ON TO ROME TO DO WHAT THEY DID.
DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION OR REACTION TO THAT?

A. NO, I HAVE NO INFORMATION ON THIS. AS YOU KNOW, DURING
THE COURSE OF THE FLIGHT A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS AND STORIES
CONCERNING SECURITY CAME UP, THANKS TO VARIOUS PEOPLE, AND

THE POSITION WITH REGARD TO SECURITY IS THAT WE DO NOT WISH
TO DISCUSS SECURITY STORIES AT ALL. HOWEVER, I WILL GO
FURTHER. I DON'T HAVE AT HAND BASIC INFORMATION TO EITHER
CORROBORATE OR DENY THE STORY THAT YOU REFER TO.

Q. COULD I ASK YOU A QUESTION ABOUT THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR
THE DISENGAGEMENT TALKS IN GENEVA? WILL THE UNITED STATES
INFORM THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION OF WHAT GOES
ON IN THOSE TALKS?

A. THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANY TROUBLE ABOUT THE CO-SPONSORS
BEING KEPT IN TOUCH WITH EVERYTHING THAT GOES ON. BUT THE
ACTUAL TALKS THEMSELVES WILL TAKE PLACE BETWEEN ISRAELI
AND EGYPTIAN MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES. THE EGYPTIAN AND
ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVES I THINK ARE WELL-KNOWN. AND IT IS
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ANTICIPATED THAT GENERAL SIILASVUO, THE UNITED NATIONS
COMMANDER, WILL BE THERE. THOSE TALKS WILL TAKE PLACE WITH
ONLY THOSE THREE ENTITIES BEING REPRESENTED. WE WILL NOT
BE PRESENT. AND I AM SURE THAT WE WILL BE KEPT IN TOUCH.

Q. I PRESUME THAT GENERAL SIILASVUO WILL REPORT DIRECTLY
TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL WHO WILL THEN REPORT TO THE

SECURITY COUNCIL AND FROM TIME TO TIME ASK THE SECURITY COUNCIL FOR GUIDANCE.

A. I HAVE NO PRECISE INFORMATION AS TO WHO IS REPORTING TO WHOM AND UNDER WHAT ARRANGEMENT. ALL I AM IN A POSITION TO SAY IS THAT THE THREE ENTITIES HAVE AGREED TO SIT DOWN AND WORK OUT WHATEVER DEGREE OF UNDERSTANDING THEY CAN IN THE CONTEXT OF GENEVA. NOW, I DO NOT SAY WHO WILL BE REPORTING TO WHOM. THEY ARE CARRYING THIS ON UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE.

Q. I WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY WERE CARRYING OUT THESE TALKS UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION.

A. BUT THE CONFERENCE IS BEING CONDUCTED BY THE TWO COUNTRIES, AND IF THEY SET UP A WORKING GROUP, THE NORMAL FIRST PROCEDURE IS TO REPORT TO THE TWO COUNTRIES THAT HAVE CONVENED THE WORKING GROUP AND ARE CHAIRING JOINTLY THE CONFERENCE ITSELF. NOW, I SPEAK TO YOU, TO BE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR, WITHOUT BEING PRECISELY SURE OF THE MODALITIES OF REPORTING. NOTHING WOULD INHIBIT GENERAL SIILASVUO FROM KEEPING THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL INFORMED. I WOULD ASSUME HE WOULD. BUT THE WORKING GROUP ITSELF IS A WORKING GROUP OF THE CONFERENCE, AND THE RESULTS OF THE WORKING GROUP WILL BE MADE KNOWN TO THE CONFERENCE ITSELF.

Q. ARE YOU DISASSOCIATING THE CONFERENCE FROM THE UNITED NATIONS. IS THIS RIGHT?

A. NO. I AM MERELY SAYING THAT THE CONFERENCE IS THE NATURAL FIRST STEP FOR A WORKING GROUP TO REPORT TO. AND THE CONFERENCE ACTS IN SUCH WAYS IT CONSIDERS PROPER IN RELATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS. BUT THE WORKING GROUP IS THE CONFERENCE'S WORKING GROUP, REMEMBER. THAT IS ALL I AM

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SAYING. THIS IS AN ABSOLUTELY NATURAL RELATIONSHIP IN ANY CONFERENCE -- IF IT ESTABLISHES SUBORDINATE BODIES, THE SUBORDINATE BODY REPORTS TO THE MAJOR BODY. THERE IS NOTHING REMARKABLE ABOUT THIS.

Q. I WANTED TO ASK IF THE SECRETARY HAD VOICED SATISFACTION OVER THE DECISION OF THE ARAB OIL-PRODUCING STATES TO INCREASE RATHER THAN DECREASE PRODUCTION NEXT MONTH, AND WHETHER HE VIEWED HIS OWN EFFORTS IN THAT DIRECTION AS HAVING BEEN CROWNED WITH TEMPORARY SUCCESS AS A RESULT OF THIS DECISION.

A. WELL, I THINK YOU HAVE OVER-PERSONALIZED WHAT WE MIGHT SAY ABOUT THIS PARTICULAR ACTIVITY AT THIS STAGE.

ALL WE HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THIS IS WE HAVE NOTED THE DECISIONS THAT THEY HAVE MADE SO FAR, AND SO FAR, SO GOOD. HOWEVER, OUR SITUATION DOES CONTINUE TO BE THAT WE SEE A CERTAIN INCONSISTENCY STILL IN THAT THIS GROUP OF STATES CONTINUES TO PRESS THAT WE SHOULD BE PRECISELY EVEN-HANDED IN NEGOTIATION, WHILE THEY FEEL FREE TO DISCRIMINATE IN THIS PARTICULAR AREA.

Q . HAS THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT RECEIVED ANY INFORMATION INDICATING A CONNECTION, A SUPPORTIVE CONNECTION, BETWEEN THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT AND THE TERRORIST GROUP THAT CARRIED OUT THE ROME HIJACKING?

A. WE DON'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON WHICH TO DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS OF ANY SORT ON THIS PARTICULAR REPORT. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

NOTE BY OCT: POUCHED SANAA

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NNN

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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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